

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2006 Environmental Justice Action Plan

FROM: Linda Travers
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

TO: Phyllis Harris, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Please find enclosed the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Environmental Justice Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2006. I am pleased that every office in OEI has contributed measurable commitments for this Action Plan. The Plan builds on the progress OEI has made in implementing its environmental justice program during the past three years.

Given OEI's role in the Agency as the National Program Manager for information, our environmental justice activities focus on ensuring that OEI products and services address the information and analytical needs of Agency managers and staff working with tribal and environmental justice communities. We are committed to the principles of environmental justice, and support the Agency's goal of integrating environmental justice into all EPA programs, policies, and activities.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 202-564-6665 or Lorena Romero-Cedeño, OEI's Environmental Justice Coordinator in the Policy and Program Development Staff, at 202-566-0985.

Attachment

cc: Barry E. Hill
Linda Smith
OEI Office Directors
Reggie Cheatham
Ruth Alene Soward

bcc: Michelle Anders
Kimberlie Orr
Michele Torreano
Kate Sijthoff
Pam Shenefiel

EPA-OEI-OPRO-P2DS/L Romero-Cedeño/202-566-0978 G:\OEI-IO\Policy & Program
Development Staff\Ongoing Functions & Programs\Environmental Justice\EJActionPlan-FY06

Office of Environmental Information Environmental Justice Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2006

Introduction and Purpose

The Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Fiscal Year 2006 Environmental Justice Action Plan describes activities we are undertaking in FY 2006 that support the Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing commitment to ensure environmental justice for all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. OEI's Environmental Justice Plan is one component of an overall EPA Environmental Justice Action Plan, and conforms to the Agency template and guidelines for Environmental Justice Action Plans used Agency-wide.

OEI's FY 2006 Environmental Justice Action Plan implements the Administrator's Environmental Justice Memorandum, reaffirmed on November 4, 2005, and which states:

... [EPA reaffirms its] commitment to environmental justice and directs EPA to more fully and effectively integrate environmental justice considerations into its programs, policies, and activities.

OEI supports the Agency's mission of protecting public health and the environment by integrating high quality environmental information to make it useful for informing decisions, improving information analyses, documenting performance, and measuring success. The office, in consultation with its many different internal and external stakeholders and partners, establishes and oversees information policies and procedures to address the concerns of local, state, and federal government; tribes; the regulated community; interest groups; the general public; and EPA managers and staff. OEI's mission is cross-cutting in nature. That is, it supports virtually all of the Agency's programs through enterprise-wide efforts to improve the way that EPA collects, manages, stores and utilizes environmental information, manages its information technology architecture and makes information technology investments. Consequently, OEI's goal in supporting the Agency's FY 2006 Environmental Justice Action Plan is to ensure that OEI products address the information and analytical needs of the environmental justice components of Agency programs.

OEI will continue to implement its programs and activities to ensure that they do not adversely affect populations with critical environmental and public health issues, including minority and low-income communities. OEI supports the Agency and will work to protect these and other burdened communities from adverse human health and environmental effects of its programs, consistent with existing environmental and civil rights laws, and their implementing regulations, as well as Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." (Feb. 11, 1994)

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN
FISCAL YEAR 2006

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water Objective 2: Clean and safe drinking water			
Activities	Output	Outcome	Point of Contact
1. Initiate and support the development of a sustainable community-based Drinking Water Well Initiative for <u>unregulated household wells</u> (not subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act) located in the San Luis Valley (SLV) of Colorado. This initiative is intended to position homeowners with unregulated wells to implement testing and monitoring of their water quality.	By September 2006, conduct community focus group sessions in five counties of the SLV to introduce the concept of household well testing and drinking water safety.	By 2006, communities have increased awareness of household drinking water well initiative. By 2006, homeowners have a greater understanding about why annual household well water testing is important to their health.	Name: Lorena Romero-Cedeño Position: EJ Coordinator, OEI-OPRO Telephone: 202-566-0978 email: romero-cedeno.lorena@epa.gov Name: Tami P. Thomas-Burton Position: Region 8 EJ Program Telephone: 303-312-6581 e-mail: thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov
	By September 2006, produce a lessons-learned report to share with all EPA Regional Offices which work with rural communities having unregulated wells.	By 2006, all EPA Regional Offices are better equipped to help homeowners test and monitor the water quality in their unregulated wells.	
	By September 2006, conduct well water testing and analysis for financially distressed households in 5 counties of the SLV.	By 2006, homeowners become aware of their water quality issues based on the data from the testing.	
	By September 2006, produce and distribute environmental information and educational materials – in English and Spanish -- concerning household drinking water well safety and risk.	By 2006, homeowners are able to implement testing and monitoring to improve their water quality issues using the environmental information and educational materials on household drinking water well safety and risk.	

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Cross Cutting Strategies: Objective: <i>Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)</i>			
Activities	Output	Outcome	Point of Contact
1. Include activities in the Exchange Network Grant Solicitation that support information management capacity building for tribes.	Awarding EN grants to tribes that enable them to build their information management capacity.	Three tribes have established EN nodes for exchanging environmental and health data.	Name: Mary E. Greene Position: Chief, Information Exchange Partnership Branch OIC Telephone: 202-566-1634, email: greenemarye@epa.gov
2. Coordinate an EJ training effort in OEI to build capacity of EJ Fundamental among staff who work to carry APA's mission to all communities.	By September of 2006, 20 OEI employees will complete the EJ Fundamentals course.	Staff are better able to interact, understand, and support the Agency's to ensure environmental justice for all people, regardless of race color, national origin, or income.	Name: Lorena Romero-Cedeño Position: EJ Coordinator, OEI-OPRO Telephone: 202-566-0978 email: romero-cedeno.lorena@epa.gov
3. Coordinate a training effort in OEI to build capacity of tribal knowledge among staff who work to carry out OEI's and EPA's mission in Indian Country.	By September of 2006, 20 OEI employees will complete the Working Effectively with Tribal Governments on-line training.	OEI employees learn the Agency's trust responsibility and treaty obligations in order to serve Tribal Country.	Name: Lorena Romero-Cedeño Position: EJ Coordinator, OEI-OPRO Telephone: 202-566-0978 email: romero-cedeno.lorena@epa.gov
4. In cooperation with the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), enhance the Tribal Information Management System (TIMS). TIMS accesses data from many sources in order to provide information on environmental conditions and to track the impacts of environmental programs in Indian country	TIMS is currently available on the EPA intranet. In FY06, OEI will coordinate with AIEO to determine additional requirements to develop and improve the application.	Provide a framework for federal agencies and Tribal governments to identify environmental risks and target resources.	Name: Julie Kocher Position: OIAA Telephone: 202-566-0710 email: kicher.julie@epa.gov OW-AIEO contact: Ed Liu (202) 564-0287
5. In cooperation with the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), continue to develop the Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool.	OEI will continue coordination with the EJ community to determine additional requirements and use an iterative process to continue the development of the next version of the Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool.	The EJ Geographic Assessment Tool allows for the interactive identification of a community. EPA and the public may then generate a report with relevant statistics associated	Name: Dave Wolf Position: OIAA Telephone: 202-566-0978 email: worf.dave@epa.gov

Cross Cutting Strategies:**Objective:** *Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)*

Activities	Output	Outcome	Point of Contact
6. On all (i.e., 100%) quality assessments where systematic planning is addressed, OEI will include a question about implementation of policies addressing EJ concerns.	Because of this question, OEI can determine whether organizations know to factor EJ concerns into their quality-related work.	OEI will have updated information on the Agency's EJ policy-related awareness in its quality activities, which can then be summarized for OEJ.	Name: Kim Orr Position: Quality Staff Telephone: 202-564-6830 Email: orr.kimberlie@epa.gov
7. In the 4th Quarter of FY06, OEI will conduct a training needs assessment to determine quality system training needs of tribal environmental programs.	This assessment would allow OEI to determine who needs quality training and what kind of training would be most appropriate.	Tribal organizations will have up-to-date training on establishing and maintaining a quality system for projects and activities.	Name: Kim Orr Position: Quality Staff Telephone: 202-564-6830 Email: orr.kimberlie@epa.gov
8. Provide the hosting, computing and network infrastructure required for the existing and enhanced EJ Geographic Assessment Tool.	An efficient and secure infrastructure is available for the EJ Geographic Assessment Tool.	EPA and/or the public have the means to electronically access the EJ Geographic Assessment Tool.	Name: Robin Gonzalez Position: OTOP - RTP Telephone: 919-541-4470 Email: gonzalez.robin@epa.gov
9. Provide the hosting, computing and network infrastructure required for the existing and enhanced Tribal Information Management System (TIMS).	An efficient and secure infrastructure is available for TIMS.	EPA and/or the public have the means to electronically access TIMS.	Name: Robin Gonzalez Position: OTOP - RTP Telephone: 919-541-4470 Email: gonzalez.robin@epa.gov